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DD/S 64-2496

DD / S R E G I S T R Y

F I L E

Security 5

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT : Proposed Briefing of Congressional Subcommittee on the Agency's Use of the Polygraph**

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph (5).

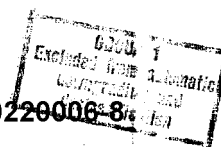
2. As you know, in conjunction with our Legislative Liaison Staff, this Office has been following closely the investigation being conducted by the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations on the use of the polygraph by U. S. Government departments and agencies. On 24 April 1964, in response to a letter from Chairman John A. Moss, you established the classified nature of Agency research in this field and invited representatives of the Subcommittee to confer personally with us on the nature and scope of such studies.

3. Coincident with your reply to Chairman Moss's letter, but prior to its receipt by him, [ ] of our Legislative Liaison Staff, was given a list of nineteen questions by Mr. Archibald, a member of the Investigative Staff of the Subcommittee, with the request that he be provided with oral answers to them.

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4. From our review of the proceedings of this investigation thus far, it has become increasingly apparent that the subcommittee has been given a great deal of misleading, incomplete or inaccurate information by a number of well-intentioned "experts". The net result has been the creation of an unfortunate impression on the part of many members of the Subcommittee which if not corrected, could have an adverse effect on the DCP's efforts to raise the standards of personnel security programs within the United States Intelligence Community.

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5. For this reason, it is the opinion of this Office, in which our General Counsel concurs, that we should now take the initiative in limited classified briefing of selected members of the Subcommittee and its investigative staff on the history, philosophy and application of the polygraph to our personnel and operational security programs. Accordingly, it is recommended that you approve the following proposed action in extension of the invitation contained in your letter to Chairman Moss:

- a. Initially, we propose to invite Mr. Archibald and Mr. Kass of the Subcommittee Investigative Staff to Headquarters for a classified briefing which will include a review of the Agency's research efforts; the history, philosophy and application of the Agency's program; and the answers to the nineteen questions given us late last week. A copy of these questions and suggested answers are attached for your information.
- b. If it is felt that the above is not sufficient for the purpose, it is then proposed that we extend an invitation to Chairman Moss and one or two members of his Subcommittee, through Mr. Archibald, for a similar briefing either in the Agency Headquarters Building or in the offices of the Subcommittee in executive session.

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R. L. Bannerman  
Director of Security

Attachment:  
As stated

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**CONCURRENCES:**

*151*  
A - J. S. Warner  
General Counsel

*30 Apr 64*  
Date

*151*  
A - Deputy Director for Support

*30 Apr 64*  
Date

The recommendation in paragraph 5 is approved.

*30 APR 1964*  
Date

*151*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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1. What part does the polygraph play in the detection of deception and in personnel screening? What part does the examiner play?

The Polygraph (meaning many graphs, or pictures) is an instrument which simultaneously records changes in blood pressure-pulse rate, respiration and changes in perspiration. It is used by this Agency as an aid to investigation and interrogation.

It is simply a diagnostic tool which when used by a trained examiner can effectively be used as a detection of deception technique.

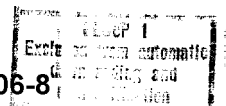
The physiological sources tapped by the Polygraph attachments are controlled by the involuntary nervous system, thus when the emotion of fear of being caught in a lie is produced by the examiner's question or questions, the change in the established normal pattern for the individual being tested is graphically displayed on chart or graph paper.

In summary, detection of deception is a technique, used by a qualified trained examiner employing a diagnostic tool, the Polygraph, as an aid.

**The Polygraph - Diagnostic Aid**

**The Examiner - Qualified - trained specialist  
in the Detection of deception  
Technique**

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**2. In what per cent of cases is the Polygraph examination accurate?**

**There are three major factors involved in Polygraph testing, the instrument, the Examiner, and the Subject. The only infallible factor is the instrument. If working mechanically true and this is easy to check, it is 100% accurate, leaving the human factors, both fallible, or capable of error.**

**It is therefore of paramount importance that this Examiner be carefully selected and carefully trained, thus minimizing the fallability possibility on the part of the Examiner.**

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